

Message Text

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17 11
ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

AID-20 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EUR-25 /156 R

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R 192308Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: UR, ET, SO, MASS
SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

1. DEC 18 WASHINGTON POST CONTAINED ARTICLE DESCRIBING
VARIOUS SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THIRD WORLD.

2. ARTICLE STATES, INTER ALIA, QTE DEFENSE DEPT SOURCES
RECENTLY REPORTED A LARGE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET ADVISERS AND
EQUIPMENT IN THE EAST AFRICAN COUNTRY OF SOMALIA, WHICH
OCCUPIES A KEY STRATEGIC POSITION ON THE GULF OF ADEN AT
THE ENTRANCE TO THE RED SEA. OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT THE
SOVIET UNION MAY HOPE TO EXPLOIT TENSIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA
AND NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIA, WHICH RECEIVES AMERICAN MILITARY
AID AND WHICH IS THE SITE OF A LARGE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS
CENTER. THERE ARE PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET
UNION BUILT A COMMUNICATIONS CENTER OF ITS OWN IN SOMALIA
AND IS SENDING VARIOUS ARMS IN RETURN. SOME POLITICIANS
TALK OF A GREATER SOMALILAND EMBRACING PARTS OF ETHIOPIA
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NOW INHABITED BY SOMALI NOMADS. SUCH TERRITORY COULD

ONLY BE SEIZED WITH THE HELP OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED ARMS.

UNQTE

3. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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